

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said preserving agent is phosphoric acid, and said mixing step comprises adjusting the pH of the mucosa tissue with phosphoric acid to about 2-4.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein said preserving agent is hydrogen peroxide, and said mixing step comprises mixing less than about 1% by weight of hydrogen peroxide with said mucosa tissue, said percent by weight hydrogen peroxide being based upon the weight of the mucosa tissue taken as 100% by weight.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein said preserving agent is hydrogen peroxide, and further including the step of heating said mucosa tissue to a temperature of from about 50-105°C prior to said mixing step.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein said preserving agent is hydrogen peroxide, and said preserved mucosa tissue has an ash content of less than about 10% by weight, based upon the total weight of the preserved mucosa tissue as 100% by weight.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein said preserved mucosa tissue has a standard plate count of less than about 20,000 cfu/g about seven days after said preserving step.

27. The method of claim 21, wherein said preserved mucosa tissue has an *E. Coli* count of less than about 10 cfu/g about seven days after said preserving step.

36. A method of treating mucosa tissue, the method comprising combining the mucosa tissue and a peroxide-containing compound to form an intermediate.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the peroxide-containing compound is hydrogen peroxide.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound in the intermediate is initially less than about 1% by weight, based upon the total weight of the mucosa tissue and the peroxide-containing compound being 100% by weight.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound in the intermediate is initially less than about 0.5% by weight, based upon the total weight of the mucosa tissue and the peroxide-containing compound being 100% by weight.

40. The method of claim 36, the method further comprising mixing the peroxide-containing compound and the mucosa tissue to form a mucosa product, the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound remaining in the mucosa product being less than about 0.04% by weight, based upon the total weight of the mucosa product being 100% by weight.

41. The method of claim 36, the method further comprising mixing the peroxide-containing compound and the mucosa tissue to form a mucosa product, the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound remaining in the mucosa product being less than about 0.01% by weight, based upon the total weight of the mucosa product being 100% by weight.

B1 42. (Amended) The method of claim 36, the method further comprising mixing the peroxide-containing compound and the mucosa tissue to form a mucosa product, the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound remaining in the mucosa product being undetectable when the concentration of the peroxide-containing compound remaining in the mucosa product is determined using KMnO_4 titration.

43. The method of claim 36, the method further comprising:
heating the mucosa tissue to a temperature in the range of about 50-105°C
prior to combining the peroxide-containing compound and the
mucosa tissue.

44. The method of claim 36, the method further comprising:
heating the mucosa tissue to a temperature in the range of about 65-75°C
prior to combining the peroxide-containing compound and the mucosa tissue.
45. The method of claim 36 wherein the mucosa tissue comprises substantially non-hydrolyzed mucosa tissue.
46. The method of claim 45 wherein the intermediate is a treated mucosa product, the method further comprising hydrolyzing the treated mucosa product to form a hydrolyzed mucosa product.
47. The method of claim 46 wherein the hydrolyzed mucosa product comprises heparin, the method further comprising extracting heparin from the hydrolyzed mucosa product.
48. The method of claim 46, the method further comprising contacting the hydrolyzed mucosa product with a protein-containing material under conditions effective to hydrolyze at least some protein of the protein-containing material and thereby reduce enzymatic activity of the hydrolyzed mucosa product.
49. The method of claim 36 wherein the mucosa tissue comprises hydrolyzed mucosa tissue.
50. The method of claim 49, the method further comprising contacting the hydrolyzed mucosa tissue with a protein-containing material under conditions effective to hydrolyze at least some protein of the protein-containing material and thereby reducing enzymatic activity of the hydrolyzed mucosa tissue.

51. The method of claim 36 wherein the intermediate is a treated mucosa product, the treated mucosa product having an ash concentration of less than about 10% by weight, based upon the total weight of the treated mucosa product being 100% by weight.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the treated mucosa product has an ash content of less than about 7% by weight, based upon the total weight of the treated mucosa product being 100% by weight.

53. A method of treating mucosa tissue, the method comprising adding phosphoric acid to the mucosa tissue to form an intermediate.

54. The method of claim 53 wherein the intermediate initially has a pH in the range of about 2-4 after the phosphoric acid is added to the mucosa tissue.

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on July 2, 2002. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21-27 and 36-54. Claims 1-20 and 28-35 were previously canceled without prejudice after the Examiner withdrew claims 1-20 and 28-35 from consideration in the above-identified application as allegedly being drawn to a non-elected invention. With this Amendment After Final, claim 42 is amended, no claims are canceled, and no new claims are added. Upon entry of this Amendment After Final, the above-identified application will include claims 21-27 and 36-54.

Entry of this Amendment After Final under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 is respectfully requested since the only claim amended in this Amendment After Final is claim 42, and the Amendment made to claim 42 merely corrects a minor typographical error so that claim 42 correctly refers to the "method" of claim 36 rather than incorrectly referring to the "improvement" of claim 36. The Examiner rejected claim in the Office Action of July 2, 2002 on the basis of this erroneous reference to the "improvement" of claim 36. Thus, as reflected by the minor nature of this amendment to